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APPLICANT(S): IANNIZZOTTO ET AL.
APPLICATION NO.: 09/940,081
ART UNIT: 1723

(a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
NON SKID PLASTIC SINK COLLANDER

(b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.

US-6,508,368	01-2003	Arce, Jr., Arcadio.....	211/41.3
US-6,039,887	03-2003	Licari, YAffa.....	210/800
US-5,279,007	01-1994	Kolada, Paul P.	4/639
US-3,960,733	06-1976	Van Dieren, Harry M.....	210/460

(c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
Not Applicable

(d) INCORPORATED-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
Not Applicable



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(e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

(1) Field of the Invention.

In kitchen cooking environments, the sink is a common and frequent area for food cleaning, preparation, and straining boiling hot comestibles. Because a significant portion of this activity deals with the straining of scalding hot liquids, this environment is potentially dangerous. Often, colander utility devices have a tendency to tilt or tip over in the sink when being filled with hot foods often requiring the use of the cook's second hand. The result can be the spillage and loss of cooked food and or the probability of burns from steam or tipped water. Therefore this situation creates a need for a utility devise which is both stable and secure. A devise of this nature allows the one preparing food to focus their attention on the hot food knowing that the straining system is locked into place.

(2) Description of Related Art.

The present invention is designed to alleviate the harmful distractions, clumsiness and dangers associated with the straining of boiling foods during preparation. This utility devise achieves its objective through its unique and innovative clamp-on mechanism which is designed for single handed, quick fastening use to universally clamp on any sink basin providing a secure and stable draining devise.

(f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

(1) FIELD OF THE INVENTION .

The primary objective of the present invention is to provide a one-step, quick, easy, stable, and universal strainer/colander to be utilized for food preparation in a household kitchen sink. Another objective is to provide a lightweight, durable, efficient and affordable product. Still another objective is to provide a unit which is simple and inexpensive in construction yet yields a long service life.

The foregoing and other objectives are realized and in accord with the invention through the construction design of durable, lightweight, heat tolerant injected molded acrylic plastic and the fabrication of a quick-release, tension support clamp. The unit is designed to be utilized in a typical household kitchen double sink whereas the clamping mechanism is designed to secure and suspend from the sink's central divider.

The present invention relates to a straining colander devise for rinsing and straining edibles and comestibles of a solid or semi-solid form. The primary portion of the unit includes a bowl which is surrounded by a flanged upper rim. The bowl unit maintains a plurality of perforations through its wall through which liquids can pass allowing the solid or semi-solid substance to be retained within the bowl. The bowl portion is flanked by a threaded screw torsion clamping devise comprised of two pieces. This clamping devise is used to secure and suspend the main

bowl. By concept, the invention is secured with one hand and the single twist of the threaded torsion clamping mechanism made of injected molded acrylic plastic. The acrylic plastic materials provide a rust free non-marring utility product. In addition to the quick release clamp for securing the colander to the sink's center dividing side wall, the unit also is designed with legs on it's base to provide a stable non-tilting balance on any surface plain thus offering the versatility of a standard straining/colander unit.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART INCLUDING INFORMATION DISCLOSED UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 37 CFR1.98

For a fuller understanding of the invention, the accompanying drawing is provided as a reference.

FIG 1 is an exploded perspective view of the non-skid strainer.

FIG 2 is an enlarged sectional view revealing a side profile of the non-skid strainer.

FIG 3 rear sectional view depicts the non-skid strainer from its rear sectional elevation .

FIG 4 front sectional view depicts the non-skid strainer from its front sectional elevation .

FIG 5 top sectional view depicts the non-skid strainer from its top sectional elevation .

FIG 6 installation view reveals how the non-skid strainer is installed.

DETAIL A. reveals a exploded perspective view of the quick clamp twist knob with threaded post.

(g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).

FIG 1 is an exploded perspective view of the non-skid strainer constructed in accordance with the present invention showing the perforated bowl shaped colander, front handle, stabilizing legs, rear handle, and threaded quick clamp devise. All components comprising of the non-skid strainer are made from white acrylic plastic fabricated through an injection mold technique.

FIG 2 is an enlarged sectional view revealing a side profile of the non-skid strainer. This view shows a detailed examination of the securing clamp mechanism with threaded knob posts. Also shown is the sectional view of the stabilizing leg. All components comprising of the non-skid strainer are made from white acrylic plastic fabricated through an injection mold technique.

FIG 3 rear sectional view depicts the non-skid strainer from its rear sectional elevation revealing the two sets of securing clamps, threaded post knobs, and stabilizing legs. All components comprising of the non-skid strainer are made from white acrylic plastic fabricated through an injection mold technique.

FIG 4 front sectional view depicts the non-skid strainer from its front sectional elevation revealing the two sets of securing clamps, threaded post knobs, and stabilizing legs. All components comprising of the non-skid strainer are made from white acrylic plastic fabricated through an injection mold technique.

FIG 5 top sectional view depicts the non-skid strainer from its top sectional elevation revealing the two sets of securing clamps, threaded post knob, front/rear handles, interior bowl area, and bowl rim. All components comprising of the non-skid strainer are made from white acrylic plastic fabricated through an injection mold technique.

FIG 6 installation view reveals how the non-skid strainer is installed and secured using the securing clamp with threaded post knobs in a dual basin kitchen sink. The unit securely clamps and firmly attaches to the central dividing wall of the dual basin sink. Securing clamps with threaded post knobs are designed to adjust accordingly as needed in fitting to, and securing to any type of sink.

DETAIL A. reveals a exploded perspective view of the quick clamp twist knob with threaded post designed to be manufactured in three separate components; 1.) main bowl unit with stabilizing legs, 2.) securing clamp bracket with rear handle, 3.) twist knob threaded post. All components comprising of the non-skid strainer are made from white acrylic plastic fabricated through an injection mold technique.

(h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

The preferred embodiments depicted in the drawing with reference to FIGS 1-6 (including DETAIL A.) reveal the design for a non-skid strainer/colander having a round bowl portion which is encompassed by a plurality of perforated holes which are orchestrated to drain liquids while allowing the retention of a variety of consumables and edibles including but not limited to pasta, macaroni, fruit, vegetables, rice, ect.

The bowl portion maintains a flanged-like rim which extends laterally outward from its perimeter. The flanged-like rim maintains the front handle of the non-skid straining unit. The flanged-like rim can be configured and molded to achieve a desired ornamental effect without impeding functionality of the unit.

At the rear position of the non-skid strainer is the rear handle which is molded into the removable securing clamp bracket.

Both the front and rear handles are designed to be grasped with a hand for lifting and mobilizing the non-skid straining unit. The rear half of the non-skid straining unit consists of the securing ramp with threaded post screw knobs. This mechanism is designed to quickly place secure and clamp the strainer to the central dividing wall of a dual basin kitchen sink. Persons of skill in the art can configure and operate the securing of the non-skid strainer quickly with two hands, one hand holding the strainer bowl unit via the front handle while the other hand twists the threaded post knobs to secure and lock the clamp resulting in the safe and stable operation of the non-skid strainer in the kitchen sink.

On the bottom side of the bowl portion of the non-skid straining unit are horizontal and rectangular stabilizing legs by which the user can set the non-skid strainer on any horizontal surface plain.